

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EUR-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, YO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR- JAT CHARTERS

REF; STATE 49643

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMSTRONG CALLED IN AMBASSADOR GRANFIL ON APRIL 5 TO INFORM THE GOY OF THE USG' S RESPONSE TO YUGOSLAVIA' S REVISED PROPOSAL FOR AN AGREEMENT COVERING NON- SCHEDULED (CHARTER) FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE US AND YUGOSLAVIA. (COPY OF AIDE- MEMOIRE GIVEN AMBASSADOR IS BEING AIRPOUCHED TODAY.)

2. CENTRAL POINTS IN OUR RESPONSE WERE: (1) YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL PRESENTED TO US ON MARCH 16 CANNOT BE ACCEPTED SINCE IT WOULD ENTAIL IN PRACTICAL TERMS " A UNILATERAL CONCESSION OF AN UNREASONABLY LARGE NUMBER OF US- ORIGIN CHARTERS DURING THE REAMINDER OF 1973," BUT (2) THAT" THE
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US IS PREPARED TO APPROVE ALL RPT ALL APPLICATIONS BY JAT FOR US- ORIGIN CHARTERS SCHEDULED BEFORE AUGUST 1 IF THEY ARE FILED PRIOR TO JULY 1 IN ACCORDANCE WITH JAT'S PERMIT AND ARE CHARTERWORTHY." OUR AIDE- MEMOIRE ALSO NOTED THAT WE EXPECT THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A LONG- TERM SOLUTION ON CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN WASHINGTON IN NEAR FUTURE, " HOPEFULLY STARTING ON MAY 14 OR EARLIER." OTHER PROVISIONS INCLUDED IN THE AIDE- MEMOIRE WERE THAT THE CAB WILL ACCEPT " A TIMELY FILING FOR RENEWAL OF JAT'S FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT" WHICH EXPIRES ON JUNE 19 AND THAT THE USG " EXPECTS THE GOY TO APPROVE ALL PENDING US CARRIER CHARTER APPLICATIONS AND PROMPTLY TO PROCESS PAN AM'S APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF ITS SCHEDULED SERVICE PERMIT."

3. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN, ARMSTRONG CLARIFIED SEVERAL POINTS BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING OF MEANING OF POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUIREMENT THAT ADVANCE APPROVAL BE OBTAINED FROM CAB FOR ALL CHARTER FLIGHTS. HE STRESSED THAT OUR RESPONSE WAS AN EFFORT TO LIBERALIZE VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS AND UNDERLINED THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO NUMERICAL LIMITATION ON CHARTERWORTHY FLIGHTS BEFORE AUGUST 1. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED USG'S HOPE THAT LONG- TERM NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN SOON.

4. GRANFIL THANKED ARMSTRONG FOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE YUGO CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS AND STRESSED THAT GOY, TOO, WANTED TO BEGIN LONG- TERM NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT DELAY. HE AGAIN NOTED AT END OF CONVERSATION HIS BELIEF THAT AUGUST 1 DIVIDING POINT WOULD WORK HARDSHIP ON JAT SINCE THIS DATE WAS IN MIDDLE OF TOURIST SEASON. HE AGREED WITH MR. ARMSTRONG THAT " HALF A LOAF WAS BETTER THAN NONE" AND HOPED FURTHER IMPROVEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY OF US RESPONSE. ROGERS

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